

ANOTHER RESPONSE

Secretary Floyd Walker made the following response to Vojtech Maxa's article "Numbers Please!" appearing in the March issue of the Bulletin:

"I've just read Vojtech Maxa's interesting article on Numbers on Perfins.

"I have a question about a number Perfin. Perhaps a reader can help.

"U. S. Number Perfin #29 is a singleline 85% . It is identified as having been used by the Ehret Magnesia Company of Philadelphia.

"My question concerns the relationship of 85% to a magnesia company.

"In other words, 85% of what?"

In response to Vojtech Maxa's article on numeral Perfin in the May Bulletin, David Stump offers the following information concerning the "85%" Perfin: "'85%' indicates 85% of magnesia, 'Mg' or 'MgO' which is what it usually is - magnesium oxide. 'Magnesia' actually is a stone called 'magnesia lithos,' but is usually ground to a powder. Its small use in that form is an an insulating material in fire brick. It is most commonly known when water has been added, and then it is called magnesium hydrate. This is a well-known laxative. More properly known as 'hydrated magnesium carbonate' and when the Ehret Company produced it, they claimed their product was 85% magnesium."